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PRESS RELEASE

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Port Valdez North Goat Hunt to Open on October 1

(Cordova) – Registration permit hunt RG248 for mountain goats in Game Management Unit 6D will open for the 2013 regulatory year on October 1. The hunt area includes the mainland drainages of Sheep Creek; north of Port Valdez, Robe Lake, and the Richardson Highway; and east of Shoup Glacier. Permits will be available only at “The Prospector” in Valdez starting September 25.

An aerial survey of the area was conducted and found a minimum count of 115 goats. The department set the maximum allowable harvest at five “goat units.” Total goat units are calculated using one unit for billies and two units for nannies.

While the taking of nannies without kids is legal, hunters are encouraged to harvest billies. Harvest of females can influence the status of a population. Because billies can breed multiple females, focusing harvest on billies places less pressure on the population and allows more hunters to participate in the hunt. This is especially true for RG248 because the harvest quota is small and hunter interest is high. For information about determining sex of goats in the field, contact a department area office or visit the department website at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>.

The RG248 mountain goat hunting season will close by emergency order when the quota is met, or on October 10.

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